

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 18, 20 and 21 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Novoa, et. al. US patent 6,223,284. The examiner has rejected claims 4, 10, 20, under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Novoa, et. al. US patent 6,223,284 in view of Yamada 6,000,005. The examiner has rejected claim 11, under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Novoa, et. al. US patent 6,223,284 in view of Kohno, US Patent 6,523,125.

The examiner objected to Claim 2, 8, 12, 16, 17, and 19 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims should be allowable over the cited art if rewritten in independent form.

The Amended Claims

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 have been cancelled.

Claim 17 has been amended to depend upon new claim 25, which has scope equivalent to former parent claim 16 but has been rewritten in independent form.

The New Claims

New Claim 22 has scope equivalent to that of former claim 2, but is written in independent form including the limitations of former base claim 1.

Similarly, new claim 23 has scope equivalent to that of former claim 8, but is written in independent form including the limitations of parent claims.

New claim 24 has scope equivalent to former claim 12, and new claim 25 has scope equivalent to former claim 16.

New claim 26 has scope equivalent to former claim 18.

CONCLUSION

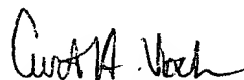
Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments place the application into better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider the application as amended.

Applicant's attorney believes that no additional fees are due, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additionally required fees to deposit account 08-2025.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the application as amended in light of the foregoing remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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